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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Political Situation

DATE DISTR 19 March 1953

NO OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Boleslaw Bierut and Jakob Berman have succeeded thus far in avoiding major purges in Poland. They have tried to the fullest extent to minimize the Gomulka-Spychalski case. They have prevented a public trial and thus preserved intact the bulk of the old party leadership. This line of policy was facilitated by the reception, into central party headquarters, of Marshal Konstantin Rokossovski, who betrays no political ambition. He has contented himself with securing seats in major political organs of the country for some of his military assistants. Among those generals delegated by him were Wladyslaw Korczyk, Stanislaw Poplawski, formerly generals of the Soviet Army, and Piotr Jaroszewicz, a Polish Communist trained in the U.S.S.R. The withdrawal of Hilary Minc, who officially retains all previous posts but no longer exercises influence on the foreign trade policy of the country, no longer receives foreigners, and was represented, on the occasion of the recent negotiations in Moscow by Minister Tadeusz Gade, is officially explained by his illness.

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In Warsaw diplomatic circles it is believed, however, that Minc and Moscow economic agencies were involved in a conflict in 1949 and that, as a result, his political standing has suffered.

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2. There have been some changes in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs during recent years. The Ministry has lost considerable prestige in the political field. It very seldom succeeds in prevailing on the State Security Ministry or even the Ministry of Foreign Trade. The power in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is still Secretary General Dr. Stefan Wierzbowski.

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stayed in Moscow during the last war and who is more influential at Communist Party headquarters than Foreign Minister Stanislaw Skrzyszewski. He also appears to have better connections in the Kremlin, at least in the Moscow Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His closest assistants, Stanislaw Gajewski, chief of the Western Division of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mrs. Maria Wierna, chief of the Central European Division, who coordinates Polish policy vis-a-vis Germany with the Soviet-German policy, have recently been promoted to the rank of ambassador. They are the only persons who dare voice an independent opinion in this ministry. East Germany is also represented by a woman in Warsaw who seems to be more active than her predecessor, Dr. Friedrich Wolf. It appears that Mrs. Wierna's reputation was not hurt by her divorce from Colonel I. Burgin,

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formerly Polish ambassador in Peiping, although his standing seems to have weakened.

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3. The attacks launched by Pravda against the Polish bishops have found official approval in Warsaw but were not followed by oppressive measures against the church. On the other hand, it must be stated that the Polish Church tries vigorously to find a *modus vivendi* with the Polish state. Regarding the problem of the Oder-Neisse border, the Polish clergy is second to none in nationalist zeal. The reasons for the moderate attitude pursued by the state vis-a-vis the church are the critical economic situation of the country and the discontent of the peasantry over the socialization of farming, which the government is unwilling to increase by anti-Catholic measures. On the other hand, the present authorities in Poland respect the inner strength of the Polish Catholic Church which has preserved its unity to a greater degree than the churches in other satellite states. Most prudent in church affairs are the Jewish leaders of the Polish Communist Party, above all, Berman. They never lend themselves to anti-clerical propaganda. In this respect, they step back before men of Catholic families, such as Josef Cyrankiewicz and Alexander Zawadzki.

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